Fourth Pay Commission's Recommendations regarding Bilingual Stenographers

3841. SHRI RAJNATH SONKAR SHASTRI: Will the Minister of LAW, JUSTICE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Fourth Pay Commission had recommended for merger of the billingual Stenographers in the Official Language Wing (Legislative Department) with Central Secretariat Stenographer Service;

(b) if so, whether these recommendations are being implemented; and

(c) if not, the steps taken/proposed to be taken in the matter?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF LAW, JUSTICE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS (SHRI RANGARAJAN KUMARAMANGALAM): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) No, Sir.

(c) No further action is contemplated.

Effect of Relaxation of Cabotage Law

382. SHRI SANAT KUMAR MANDAL: Will the Minister of SURFACE TRANSPORT be pleased to state:

(a) whether the foreign shipping lines have commenced a dialogue with the Indian Port authorities for tapping fully the advantages of the relaxed Cabotage Law for the benefit of Indian shippers;

(b) if so, whether the Government have assessed its benefits to the shippers; and

(c) the extent to which the cabotage law relaxation has hurt the domestic shipping lines to tranship cargo along the coastal ports of the country particularly on the east coast starting from Calcutta Port?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF SURFACE TRANSPORT (SHRI JAGDISH TYTLER): (a) and (b). Yes, Sir.

(c) No Shipping line has taken the advantage of this relaxation. Therefore, the impact on the domestic shipping lines cannot be assessed.

Disinvestment of Land Holdings in Cantonments

3843. SHRI SANAT KUMAR MANDAL: Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government plan to disinvest upto 10% of its land holdings in the various catonments;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor and the manner in which the sale of this land is to be made;

(c) whether this land will be used for commercial or residential purposes by the buyers; and

(d) the steps proposed to be taken by the Government to meet the situation in the event of expansion of these cantonment areas by way of providing accommodation for the Defence personnel particularly in the border areas or for stationing of the troops?

THE MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI SHARAD PAWAR): (a) to (c). The Government have no plan to disinvest 10% of the Defence land holdings in Cantonments. However, the Government are examining the possibility of generating additional resources to augment the Capital Works Budget

by disposing of lands which may be permanently surplus to Defence requirements, on realisation of market value.

(d) As Defence lands are declared permanently surplus only after taking into account present and future requirements, such contingencies are not likely to arise.

Toll collections for Road Projects

3844. SHRI SANAT KUMAR MANDAL: Will the Minister of SURFACE TRANSPORT be pleased to state:

(a) whether some States have proposed setting up of joint ventures with the help of the private sector to raise funds for financing road construction projects;

(b) if so whether they have also called for setting up a revolving fund for toll-based projects and redeploying to collections and other funds generated through advertisements and road-side amenities;

(c) the name of the States sponsoring the move for such ventures to finance road construction;

(d) whether the Government have issued any directions to the State Governments in the matter of toll collections; and

(e) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF SURFACE TRANSPORT (SHRI JAGDISH TYTLER): (a) In so far as National Highways are concerned, no proposal has been received from any State to set up joint ventures for financing toll based projects.

(b) and (c). Do not arise.

(d) and (e). In so far as State roads are concerned, the State Governments have already been requested to explore the possibility of involving private sector in development and maintenance of State roads.

Foreign Direct Investment from Japan

3845. SHRI SANAT KUMAR MANDAL: Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether foreign direct investment (FDI) from Japan is declining;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor; and

(c) the steps being taken to step up India's exports to Japan and to identify the potential areas of growth and expansion of trade?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE (SHRI P. CHIDAMBARAM): (a) No, Sir; rather the investment from Japan to India has been on the rise.

(b) Does not arise.

(c) Besides recent policy liberalisations in trade, these include periodical review of bilatral trade, exchange of delegations, participation in international fairs, exhibitions at Japan, etc.

Software Exports to Europe

3846. SHRI GEORGE FERNANDES: Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether India and the European Commission (EC) has proposed to set up jointly a centre in India to promote software exports to Europe; and

(b) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE